

Hunter College Gymnasium Picked For UNO Security Council Session

The United Nations Organization, after weeks of site inspection, reports and heated discussions on both sides of the Atlantic, found a temporary haven in New York yesterday. Mayor O'Dwyer, following a conference at City Hall, announced that the city would make available a million-dollar, three-story gymnasium building in the Bronx Center of Hunter College for the meeting of the Security Council, scheduled to start March 21 and expected to last six weeks. Bronx Borough President James J. Lyons, who discovered at the last minute the availability of the buildings recently vacated as a training center for the Navy's Waves, said later he would press for retention of the site by the UNO as its interim headquarters.

Declaring his belief that the UNO would make formal request for the three other buildings in the center, Mr. Lyons said:

"I am going to pursue the thing

further with the idea of turning over all the buildings to the United Nations and I am confident the Mayor and the Board of Estimate will approve."

This view was not shared by Dr. George N. Shuster, president of Hunter College, who earlier had voiced sharp disapproval of the proposal. While he "welcomed" the Security Council meeting yesterday, Dr. Shuster said continuing use of the center by the UNO as interim headquarters would "gravely impair the education of young people for the next few years." Further, he said that in view of the overtaxed educational facilities in the city, curtailment of the anticipated services of the Bronx institution "would automatically prevent many veterans from getting an education."

"The UNO," he declared, "will use the gymnasium building for

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March and April, but we expect it back for the September school term."

Situated nearest Jerome Avenue in a quadrangle, the gymnasium building contains a large gymnasium that will be used as an assembly hall, five smaller gymnasium rooms, a laundry, sixty showers, a swimming pool, health clinic, six special exercise rooms and a medical office.

In addition to the assembly hall, which can accommodate 1,000 persons, other facilities will be swiftly converted into committee rooms, lounges, offices and press rooms. Conversion can be accomplished with interior alterations but without any change in the basic structure of the building, UNO officials stated. A group of experts, specialists in space planning, radio, films and documentary service, visited the building yesterday afternoon to prepare layouts.

Mayor O'Dwyer's announcement was made after a half hour's conference with Arthur David Kemp Owen, British executive assistant to Secretary General Trygve Lie of Norway; Arbraham H. Feller, American counsel for the UNO; Geoffrey Wilson, Briton, of the UNO secretariat; Dr. Ordway Tead, chairman of the Board of Higher Education; Grover A. Whalen, chairman of the Mayor's UNO committee, and Mr. Lyons.

The Mayor, commenting on Mr. Lyons' "somewhat belated discovery" of the Bronx Hunter College buildings, which, he said, it was agreed were "ideally located and suitable in every way" for the UNO, said that he was happy to announce a unanimous accord on the gymnasium building. Dr. Tead stressed that the occupation was temporary, as did the UNO officials.

Mr. Whalen said that the Hotel Association of New York City had agreed to provide rooms for 300 members of the secretariat who will be here for the March meeting. Mr. Owen said he would leave

Thursday by plane for London to report to Mr. Lie.

Leaving City Hall, the conferees, with the exception of the Mayor, met with Corporation Counsel John J. Bennett at the Municipal Building to discuss the legal aspects of the agreement. It is expected that a lease similar to the one with the Navy, which called for a payment of \$200,000 for all four buildings as well as their rehabilitation at the end of the term, would be negotiated between the Estimate Board and the UNO. The amount of consideration for the lease was not mentioned by any source yesterday.

Several hours earlier the first of the secretariat, numbering seven-

teen men and eight women, arrived at La Guardia Field after a flight from England in a lend-lease plane being returned to this country. Dr. W. Bryant Mumford of Great Britain, public relations officer, said they were "very anxious to have some good meals" and begin the work of preparing for the Security Council session. The twenty-five are part of a staff of 100 UNO employees who will be brought here in the next month. A supplementary staff is to be recruited in the United States.

Dr. Mumford, who is to organize the public relations staff to be set up here, explained that all appointments were temporary and would not become permanent until the

various departmental heads had been chosen. Met by UNO and State Department officials, the arrivals were driven from the airport to the Waldorf-Astoria and the Commodore.

At a press conference late in the afternoon at the United Nations Information Office, 610 Fifth Avenue, Mr. Feller said that "the question of future use [of Hunter] as an interim headquarters remains open and was not discussed this morning."

The other sites previously inspected were still under consideration along with Hunter, Mr. Feller stated, but he said the Whitelaw Reid Mansion on Madison Avenue was "not very seriously taken."